

Message Text

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PAGE 01 DAMASC 05174 121059Z
ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 EB-08 AID-05 /024 W
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R 120726AUG 77
FM AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4382
INFO USDOC WASHDC

UNCLAS DAMASCUS 5174

E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: BEXP, ETEL, SY, GR
SUBJ: MAJOR PROJECT: SUBMARINE CABLE

REF: STATE 185369; ATHENS 7396

1. AS THAENS HAS REPORTED, SYRIAN-GREEK AGREEMENT FOR CONSTRUCTION AND MAINTENANCE OF SUBMARINE CABLE WAS SIGNED IN ATHENS JULY 29. CABLE WILL CONNECT CRETE AND SYRIAN PORT OF TARTOUS.

2. SYRIAN RESPONSIBLE AGENCY IS POST AND TELECOMMUNICATIONS ESTABLISHMENT, HEJAZ SQUARE, DAMASCUS, SYRIA. ACCORDING TO PTE TECHNICAL DIRECTOR NABIL KASRAWI, CABLE CAPACITY WILL BE 480 CIRCUITS OF 4 KHZ BANDS OR HIGHER. GREEK AND SYRIAN TECHNICAL TEAMS WILL MEET IN DAMASCUS IN OCTOBER TO PREPARE SPECIFICATIONS. KASRAWI EXPECTS INTERNATIONAL TENDER TO BE LET ABOUT DECEMBER 10, WITH CONTRACT AWARDED IN JULY 78. EST. VALUE OF PROJECT: 30M. DOLS. FINANCING UNCERTAIN; KASRAWY BELIEVES BOTH PARTIES WILL ASK FOR CREDIT TERMS. (GREEK EMBASSY DAMASCUS BELIEVES GREEKS WILL FINANCE OUT OF CURRENT BUDGET.)

3. KASRAWI LEAVING FOR US THIS MONTH FOR FOUR-WEEK USAID-SPONSORED TRAINING PROGRAM ON SUBMARINE CABLES (KASRAWI WILL HEAD SYRIAN TEAM WRITING SPECS). HE BELIEVES US PROGRAM WILL UNCLASSIFIED

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INCLUDE VISITS TO BELL LABORATORIES AND WESTERN ELECTRIC. HE WOULD BE HAPPY TO TALK DURING HIS US STAY TO FIRMS INTERESTED IN PROJECT. IN US HE MAY BE REACHED THROUGH MR. RICHARD MURPHY, OFFICE OF INTERNATIONAL TRAINING, USAID, WASHINGTON; INQUIRERS SHOULD CITE KASRAWY CASE NO. 276-50098. KASRAWI ALSO INVITED

INTERESTED US FIRMS TO CORRESPOND WITH HIM IN DAMASCUS
PRIOR TO PUBLICATION OF TENDER.
MURPHY

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NNN

*** Current Handling Restrictions *** n/a

*** Current Classification *** UNCLASSIFIED

Message Attributes

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Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
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